

**THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**CONSTITUTION  
AND  
CANONS  
OF  
THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

**AS ADOPTED BY  
THE CONVENTIONS OF THE DIOCESE  
A.D. 1924 AND 1925  
AND AMENDED BY  
THE CONVENTIONS THROUGH 2007**

**TOGETHER WITH  
THE RULES OF ORDER  
GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS  
AT MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION**

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
PUBLISHED BY THE DIOCESE  
2007**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CONSTITUTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
PREAMBLE .....	1
ARTICLE I .....	1
ALLEGIANCE .....	1
ARTICLE II .....	2
NAME AND MEMBERSHIP .....	2
ARTICLE III .....	2
DIOCESAN OFFICERS .....	2
BISHOP .....	2
COADJUTOR AND SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS .....	2
TREASURER .....	2
SECRETARY .....	2
CHANCELLOR .....	3
REGISTRAR .....	3
OTHER OFFICERS .....	3
ARTICLE IV .....	3
ELECTION OF OFFICERS .....	3
BISHOPS .....	3
SECRETARY AND TREASURER .....	3
THE CHANCELLOR AND ASSOCIATE CHANCELLOR .....	4
THE REGISTRAR .....	4
ARTICLE V .....	4
JURISDICTION .....	4
ARTICLE VI .....	5
THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION .....	5
POWERS .....	5
ARTICLE VII .....	6
CONVENTION OFFICERS .....	6
PRESIDENT .....	6
SECRETARY .....	6
OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES .....	6
ARTICLE VIII .....	6
MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION .....	6
ARTICLE IX .....	8
MEETINGS .....	8
ARTICLE X .....	8
THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS .....	8
ARTICLE XI .....	9
ADMISSION OF NEW PARISHES AND CONGREGATIONS .....	9
ARTICLE XII .....	10
EXPULSION, SUSPENSION OR DISSOLUTION OF A PARISH OR CONGREGATION .....	10
ARTICLE XIII .....	10
DIOCESAN COUNCIL .....	10
ARTICLE XIV .....	10
THE STANDING COMMITTEE .....	10
ARTICLE XV .....	11
ELECTION OF DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION .....	11
ARTICLE XVI .....	11

MEMBERS OF "THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI," A CORPORATION.....	11
ARTICLE XVII .....	11
THE CATHEDRAL .....	11
ARTICLE XVIII .....	12
DEFINITIONS .....	12
ARTICLE XIX .....	13
AMENDMENTS.....	13
ARTICLE XX .....	13
REPEAL .....	13
<b>CANONS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
CANON I .....	14
DIOCESAN CONVENTION - LIST OF CLERGY .....	14
CANON II .....	14
LAY DELEGATES - HOW CHOSEN .....	14
CANON III .....	15
THE SECRETARY OF THE DIOCESE.....	15
CANON IV .....	15
THE TREASURER OF THE DIOCESE .....	15
CANON V .....	16
THE CHANCELLOR .....	16
CANON VI.....	16
THE REGISTRAR .....	16
CANON VII.....	16
THE FISCAL YEAR.....	16
CANON VIII.....	17
DEANERIES .....	17
CANON IX.....	17
DIOCESAN COUNCIL .....	17
MEMBERSHIP .....	17
VACANCIES.....	17
OFFICERS .....	18
DEPARTMENTS .....	18
BY-LAWS .....	18
MEETINGS.....	18
CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS .....	18
QUORUM.....	18
CANON X.....	19
DIOCESAN AND PARISH REGISTERS.....	19
CANON XI.....	19
CONGREGATIONS .....	19
CANON XII.....	20
PARISHES .....	20
CANON XIII.....	21
CONCERNING A CHANGE OF STATUS OF A PARISH OR CONGREGATION .....	21
CANON XIV .....	22
PARISH MEETINGS .....	22
CANONS XV .....	23
THE VESTRY.....	23
CANON XVI .....	24
THE CUSTODY OF THE CHURCH BUILDING.....	24
CANON XVII .....	25

CHANGE OF NAME OF A PARISH OR CONGREGATION.....	25
CANON XVIII .....	25
DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONS .....	25
CANON XIX .....	26
VACANT RECTORATES .....	26
CANON XX .....	26
RECTORS AND THEIR DUTIES .....	26
CANON XXI .....	27
ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE .....	27
CANON XXII .....	31
DISCIPLINE OF THE LAITY .....	31
CANON XXIII .....	31
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY .....	31
CANON XXIV .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
EXAMINING CHAPLAINS.....	311
CANON XXV .....	32
ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS .....	32
CANON XXVI .....	32
CATHEDRAL .....	32
CANON XXVII .....	33
REPEAL .....	33
<b>RULES OF ORDER.....</b>	<b>34</b>
ORDER OF BUSINESS .....	35
REGARDING RESOLUTIONS.....	355
<b>Index to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri.....</b>	<b>i-viii</b>

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

**APPENDIX -- DEANERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**



**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

**PREAMBLE**

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That the members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, residing in the Diocese of West Missouri, in Convention assembled, composed of their representatives duly chosen, with profound reverence for, and abiding belief in God, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, grateful for God's goodness, and with a firm, constant and steadfast faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; in order to establish a more perfect union, insure Christian tranquility, and provide for the general religious welfare of the members of the Church in the Diocese, and secure the blessings thereof to ourselves, and all others now and hereafter in union with this Diocese (established by the Convention of the Diocese of Missouri, May 22, A.D. 1889, and ratified by the General Convention of the Church in October, A.D. 1889), and the civil corporation known as "The Diocese of West Missouri" (created by decree in the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri, at Kansas City, made and entered therein May 10, A.D. 1920, and recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds within and for Jackson County, Missouri, at Kansas City, in Book B-2068, at page 230, and filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Jefferson City, Missouri, June 7, A.D. 1920),

**In the Name of the Father and of the Son and  
of the Holy Ghost, do hereby Ordain and  
Establish this Constitution.**

**ARTICLE I**

**ALLEGIANCE**

SECTION 1. The Diocese of West Missouri is a voluntary religious association composed of believers in the doctrine, discipline and worship of that part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and acknowledges and submits to the authority of the General Convention of the same.

SECTION 2. No person shall be elected Bishop of this Diocese, or Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, or Rector of any Parish therein, or shall have any authority to act, or shall be permitted to act, as Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, or Priest, Rector, Minister, or Cleric by whatever name said person may be called, who disclaims or refuses to conform to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and of this Diocese, as the same now exist or may be hereafter adopted, or to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church; and any person holding any office or appointment under authority of the Church, who disclaims or refuses to conform to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and of this Diocese, as the same now exist or may be hereafter adopted, or the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church, shall be subject to presentment and trial in accordance with the Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **NAME AND MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. This Diocese shall be known and designated as the Diocese of West Missouri.

SECTION 2. This Diocese of West Missouri is a voluntary association composed of the Clergy canonically resident therein, and of all the Parishes and Congregations and the members thereof that are now recognized as such by the present diocesan government and by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and shall be composed of such Parishes, Congregations, Deaneries and other organizations and the members thereof, as may be duly admitted to union with the Diocese by action of the Convention thereof.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **DIOCESAN OFFICERS**

SECTION 1. The officers of the Diocese shall be a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor, and a Suffragan Bishop, if such there be; also, a Treasurer, Secretary, Chancellor, Registrar, and such other officers as may be provided by this Constitution or by Canon.

#### **BISHOP**

SECTION 2. The Bishop shall be the chief pastor of all the members of the Church in this Diocese, also President of the Convention, and head of all the activities of the Church in this Diocese. The Bishop shall have and exercise the powers and authority conferred by consecration in accordance with the written laws of the Church as the same now exists or may hereafter be adopted.

#### **COADJUTOR AND SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS**

SECTION 3. The Bishop Coadjutor, and the Suffragan Bishop, if such there be, shall perform such duties as usually pertain to such offices, and as may be defined by Canon.

#### **TREASURER**

SECTION 4. The Treasurer shall be an adult communicant of the Church in good standing and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese. The Treasurer shall perform such duties and shall hold office for such length of time, and under such conditions, as may be provided by this Constitution or by Canon.

#### **SECRETARY**

SECTION 5. The Secretary shall be a Cleric of this Diocese, or an adult communicant of the Church in good standing and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese. The Secretary shall hold office for such length of time, and under such conditions, as may be provided by this Constitution or by Canon.

## **CHANCELLOR**

SECTION 6. The Chancellor shall be learned in civil and ecclesiastical law, an adult communicant of the Church in good standing, and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese. The Chancellor shall be the legal adviser of the Bishops, the Convention, the Diocesan Council and all Committees, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by Canon or by resolution of the Convention, and shall hold office for a term of three years.

## **REGISTRAR**

SECTION 7. The Registrar shall be a Cleric of this Diocese, or an adult communicant of the Church in good standing and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese. The duties of the registrar shall be defined by Canon, and the term of office shall be three years.

## **OTHER OFFICERS**

SECTION 8. The Convention shall have the power to create such additional officers as may be necessary to perform the work of the Diocese; but shall not have any power to create any office, or to elect or appoint any officer with the authority to invade the province of any of the officers above mentioned.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **BISHOPS**

SECTION 1. The election of a Bishop shall take place only at an annual meeting of the Convention, when notice of such intention to elect has been duly given by the Standing Committee, or at a special meeting of the Convention, which has been duly called by the Standing Committee for that specific purpose.

SECTION 2. The election of a Bishop Coadjutor, or of a Suffragan Bishop, shall take place only at an annual meeting of the Convention or at a special meeting thereof duly called by the Bishop for that specific purpose.

SECTION 3. A majority of the votes cast by all the Clergy and laity present and duly seated in the Convention, voting separately, by Orders, shall be necessary to elect a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop.

#### **SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

SECTION 4. The Convention shall, at its annual meeting, elect the Secretary and the Treasurer, to serve as such until the next Annual Convention, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The Convention shall also elect an Associate Treasurer upon the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve until the next Annual Convention.

SECTION 5. If the Secretary or Treasurer or Associate Treasurer resign or remove from the Diocese, or become incapable of acting, the Diocesan Council shall have power to appoint a Secretary or Treasurer or Associate Treasurer as the case may be, to act until the next Annual Convention.

### **THE CHANCELLOR AND ASSOCIATE CHANCELLOR**

SECTION 6. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect a Chancellor and an Associate Chancellor. If a vacancy in the office of the Chancellor or the Associate Chancellor occurs, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a qualified person to fill such office until the next Convention, which shall elect a Chancellor and an Associate Chancellor for the full term of three years, on nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

### **THE REGISTRAR**

SECTION 7. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect the Registrar. If a vacancy in the office of the Registrar occurs, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy to serve until the next annual meeting of the Convention at which a Registrar shall be elected for a full term of three years.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **JURISDICTION**

The Diocese of Missouri, by action duly taken at a meeting thereof held May 22, 1889, which action was ratified by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America at its meeting in October, 1889, having relinquished jurisdiction in the following counties in the State of Missouri, namely: Andrew, Atchison, Barry, Barton, Bates, Benton, Buchanan, Caldwell, Camden, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Chariton, Christian, Clay, Clinton, Cooper, Dade, Dallas, Davies, DeKalb, Douglass, Gentry, Greene, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Hickory, Holt, Howard, Howell, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Linn, Livingston, McDonald, Mercer, Moniteau, Morgan, Newton, Nodaway, Ozark, Pettis, Platte, Polk, Putnam, Ray, St. Clair, Saline, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Vernon, Webster, Worth, and Wright; and the Diocese of West Missouri having been duly formed in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, all jurisdiction is hereby accepted extending and covering all the activities of the Church in the above mentioned counties.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION POWERS**

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a governing body to be known as the Diocesan Convention, which shall possess and exercise all necessary legislative and judicial powers.

SECTION 2. The Convention shall also have power by Canon or by resolution to provide for the merger or consolidation of two or more Parishes and to fix the conditions under which they may be merged or consolidated, and the disposition they shall make of their property, real, personal, and mixed, before such merger or consolidation can become effective.

SECTION 3. The Convention shall also have power by appropriate canons to fix the terms and conditions under which Parishes or Congregations may be formed in this Diocese, and to provide for the manner in which their property, real, personal, and mixed, shall be disposed of in case of their dissolution, abandonment or inability to function, or voluntary withdrawal from union with the Diocese or the Church.

SECTION 4. The Convention may provide by Canon for the creation of a judicial body to hear, try, and determine all controversies and disputes of every kind and nature arising in the Diocese, which concern the welfare of the Church.

SECTION 5. The decisions of the Convention on all matters properly coming before it shall be binding upon all Clergy, Parishes and Congregations, and upon every member of the Church in this Diocese.

SECTION 6. The Convention shall have power to assess equitably all the Parishes and Congregations in union with the Diocese for the necessary expenses and programs of the Diocese, which assessments may be levied either by Canon or by resolution.

SECTION 7. The Convention shall have power to fix by Canon or by resolution, the terms and conditions upon which any Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese may have the amount of its annual assessments remitted in whole or in part.

SECTION 8. The Convention shall have no power to adopt or enforce any Canon, resolution, rule or regulation which violates any of the provisions of the Constitution, or of the Constitution and Canons adopted by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, or which violates the doctrine, discipline or worship of this church as the same now exists or may hereafter be adopted.

SECTION 9. The Convention may adopt, change and amend Canons which are not in limitation but in furtherance of the powers granted by this Constitution, covering objects and purposes and activities beneficial to the Diocese, although not referred to or provided for in this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **CONVENTION OFFICERS**

SECTION 1. The officers of the Convention shall be a President, a Secretary, and such other officers, as the Convention may deem proper and needful.

#### **PRESIDENT**

SECTION 2. The Bishop shall be the President of the Convention, and shall preside at all meetings thereof.

SECTION 3. In the event of the absence or inability to act of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall act as President of the Convention for the time being.

SECTION 4. In the event of the absence or inability to act of the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, the Suffragan Bishop shall act as President of the Convention for the time being.

SECTION 5. In the event of the absence or inability to act of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, and the Suffragan Bishop, if there be one, the President of the Standing Committee shall call the Convention to order and it shall immediately proceed to the election of a President, pro tempore.

#### **SECRETARY**

SECTION 6. The Secretary of the Diocese shall be the Secretary of the Convention. The Convention may elect by majority vote as many Assistants to the Secretary as may be necessary. The Secretary shall make an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings and file them with the Diocesan Council.

### **OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

SECTION 7. The Convention shall have power to provide by Canon for the election or appointment of other officers than those mentioned in this Article, and also such Committees as may be necessary to carry on and perform the work of the Convention.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

SECTION 1. The members of the Convention shall be the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, the Suffragan Bishop, and Archdeacons, when there be such, every cleric in good standing in the Church who is canonically resident in this Diocese; also the Treasurer and the Associate Treasurer of the Diocese; also the Secretary of the Diocese; also the Chancellor and the Associate Chancellor of the Diocese; also the Registrar of the Diocese, and also lay delegates from every Parish and Congregation in union with the Diocese duly chosen and entitled to seats, as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. Canonical residence of a cleric shall date from the cleric's ordination within the Diocese, or from the date of the acceptance of Letters Dimissory by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

SECTION 3. Every parish and congregation in union with the Diocese shall be entitled to be represented in the Convention by one Lay Delegate; and in addition thereto, by one Lay Delegate for each 100 communicants or major fraction thereof, up to 500; and in addition thereto, parishes having more than 500 communicants shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate for each 250 communicants or major fraction thereof, up to 1,000 communicants; furthermore, in addition thereto, parishes having more than 1,000 communicants shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate for each 500 communicants or major fraction thereof, in excess of 1,000. For the purpose of determining the number of Lay Delegates to which a parish or congregation is entitled, the number of communicants of such parish or congregation shall be the number of communicants reported by such parish or congregation in its Parochial report immediately preceding that date on which its Lay Delegates are chosen.

SECTION 4. Lay Delegates representing a Parish shall be chosen by its Vestry. Lay Delegates representing a Congregation shall be chosen by its Committee.

SECTION 5. The Lay Delegates chosen as above shall be adult communicants of the Church in good standing, who shall have been for six months preceding worshipers in the Parish or Congregation which they severally represent, and who shall be canonically entitled to vote for Vestry persons, but no Postulant or Candidate for Holy Orders shall be admitted as a Lay Delegate to the Convention.

SECTION 6. No Lay Delegate shall be entitled to a seat in the Convention or take any part in the deliberations thereof until the parish or congregation which the Delegate represents has paid in full all assessments duly levied against such parish or congregation for the current year through the last calendar quarter prior to the opening date of Convention, unless the Convention then in session shall remit or extend the time of payment for such delinquent assessments.

SECTION 7. No person under ecclesiastical censure or process, whether Cleric or Member of the Laity, or who has not conformed to the decisions of the Convention, or who disclaims or refuses conformity to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and of this Diocese, as the same now exist or may be hereafter adopted, or who does not accede to recognize and accept unqualifiedly the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church, shall be allowed a seat in the Convention, or take part in the deliberation thereof.

SECTION 8. Lay Delegates shall serve as such at the annual Convention to which they are elected, and also at all adjourned meetings thereof.

SECTION 9. Lay Delegates to every special meeting of the Convention shall be chosen to serve as such for that meeting and adjournments thereof.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **MEETINGS**

SECTION 1. The Convention shall annually assemble in the month of November at such time and place as shall have been appointed by the preceding Annual Convention; but the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall have power to change the meeting time or place, or both; provided, however, that reasonable notice of such change shall be given to every Cleric, and to the Senior Warden and the Secretary of every Parish, and to the Warden and the Secretary of every Congregation, in union with the Diocese.

SECTION 2. Special meetings of the Convention may be called by the Ecclesiastical Authority when, in the judgement thereof, the good of the Church requires it. Reasonable notice of a special meeting shall be issued, by letter or printed circular, to every Cleric, and to the Senior Warden and the Secretary of every Parish, and to the Warden and the Secretary of every Congregation in union with the Diocese, and it shall state the business for which the Convention is called. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting of the Convention, except that mentioned in the call, unless by unanimous consent of the members present.

SECTION 3. During each Convention, there should be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and during the sessions of the Convention, such Divine Services shall be held as shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS**

SECTION 1. One-fourth of the Clergy, and Lay Delegates from one-fourth of the Parishes and Congregations entitled to representation in the Convention, when fully assembled, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

SECTION 2. The Clergy and the Lay Delegates shall deliberate as one body, and, except when herein otherwise expressly provided, a majority of all the votes cast shall determine any question submitted to the Convention.

SECTION 3. Any member may call for a vote by yeas and nays, and when such a call is made, the Secretary shall call the roll of the Convention, the members thereupon announcing their votes as their names are called. The votes so cast shall be recorded in the Journal. No member shall be excused from voting unless by unanimous consent.

SECTION 4. If any five Clergy, or if any five Lay Delegates, representing no fewer than three Parishes or Congregations, shall demand a vote by Orders, the Secretary shall call for those clergy in favor to stand, and when their number has been ascertained, shall require those opposed to signify their vote in a like manner. The same procedure will be followed to record the vote in the lay order. A majority of the votes of each Order shall be necessary for an affirmative decision.

SECTION 5. The Convention shall by Canon, or resolution, adopt Rules of Order, which shall be followed and enforced at every meeting of the Convention.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **ADMISSION OF NEW PARISHES AND CONGREGATIONS**

SECTION 1. Every Parish or Congregation wishing to be admitted into union with the Diocese shall make an application in writing to the Convention. The application shall be signed by the Rector and Wardens of the Parish, or by the Committee of the Congregation. The application shall state that such Parish or Congregation, as the case may be, (a) desires to be admitted into the union with the Diocese; (b) will, if its application is accepted, at all times conform to and abide by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and this Diocese, as the same then exist or may thereafter be adopted; (c) will not take or persist in any conduct harmful or inimical to the welfare of the Church; (d) will not retain or support a Rector or a Minister who does not conform to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese, and to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church; and (e) will not withdraw from union with the Diocese. With respect to a Congregation, upon admission into union with the Diocese it will convey all of the right, title or interest it has in or to any property, real, personal, and mixed, absolutely, to "The Diocese of West Missouri." All such property shall thereafter be held by the Diocese. In case of the dissolution, abandonment, or inability to function of such Congregation or its withdrawal, expulsion or suspension from the Diocese, whatever trust may have been created in fact or in law, by such conveyance shall thereupon and at once cease and the property so conveyed to "The Diocese of West Missouri" shall thereafter be held by it for the benefit of the Diocese. With respect to a Parish, in the case of the dissolution, abandonment or inability to function of such Parish or in the event of its withdrawal, expulsion or suspension from the Diocese, all its property, real, personal, or mixed, shall thereupon, without any act of such Parish or Congregation, at once devolve upon and become the property of "The Diocese of West Missouri", a corporation, to be held for the benefit of the Diocese. In the event of such dissolution, abandonment, inability, withdrawal, expulsion or suspension it will take such action and execute such conveyances, if any, as may be required of it to perfect the reversion and vesting of such title to and in the Diocese. Upon admission of a Parish into union with the Diocese, title to property previously vested in the Diocese but held by it for the use of such Parish shall be transferred and conveyed to the Parish subject to the aforesaid reversionary rights in the Diocese in the event of the dissolution, abandonment or inability to function of such Parish or the withdrawal, expulsion or suspension from the Diocese of such Parish.

SECTION 2. The Convention may admit Parishes and Congregations into union with the Diocese when they shall have presented to the Convention evidence of their compliance with Section 1 of this Article, and with all the constitutional and canonical requirements concerning the organization of Parishes or Congregations as the case may be.

SECTION 3. No organization or aggregation of persons claiming to be a Parish or a Congregation, which has not been duly admitted into union with the Diocese, shall be recognized as a Parish or Congregation of this Diocese by the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof.

SECTION 4. When any Parish or Congregation in the opinion of the Bishop or of the Diocesan Council, is liable to the forfeiture of its status, or is essentially defunct, notice thereof shall be given to the Rector, if any, of the Parish, or, if there be no Rector, to the Senior Warden thereof, and to the Minister of a Congregation if any there be, and if the Congregation has no

Minister, notice shall be given to the Warden of such Congregation, that the matter will be brought before the next meeting of the Convention for action, and at such meeting the Convention may suspend, or dissolve said Parish or Congregation as the case may require.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **EXPULSION, SUSPENSION OR DISSOLUTION OF A PARISH OR CONGREGATION**

Any Parish or Congregation, which takes and persists in any action contrary to the Constitution and Canons, doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, or of this Diocese, or which takes any action, or persists in any conduct, harmful or inimical to the welfare of the Church, or which retains and supports a Rector of a Parish, or a Minister of a Congregation, who does not conform to the said Constitution, Canons, doctrine, discipline and worship shall be expelled from union with this Diocese, upon a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Convention, each Order voting separately; and thereupon the Diocesan Council shall take possession of all property thereof under the provisions of any agreement to that effect made by such Parish or Congregation as a condition to its admission into union with the Diocese or otherwise made by such Parish or Congregation.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a Diocesan Council which shall exercise all the power of the Convention between meetings thereof, for the purpose of the unification, development and prosecution of the work of Missions and Church Extension, Christian Education, Christian Social Relations, Publicity, Promotion, Diocesan Finance and Diocesan Property, and Youth, and shall control the affairs of "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation, and for the performance of whatever work may be committed to said Diocesan Council by the Convention, under the provisions of the Canons of this Diocese.

SECTION 2. The Convention shall adopt appropriate Canons to enable the Diocesan Council fully and properly to function in order to perform its duties and responsibilities.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

SECTION 1. The Standing Committee shall consist of four Priests and four Laypersons who are eligible to seats in the Convention, and who shall be elected by concurrent vote of both orders to serve for terms of two years. At each annual Convention, two Priests and two Laypersons shall be elected to serve for terms of two years. No member of the Standing Committee may be elected to serve for more than two consecutive two-year terms.

SECTION 2. The members of the Standing Committee shall serve until their successors are elected.

SECTION 3. Vacancies in the membership of the Standing Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members.

SECTION 4. The Standing Committee shall perform the duties required by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and by resolution of the Convention.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **ELECTION OF DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION**

SECTION 1. At the annual Convention one year before each triennial meeting of the General Convention, four Clergy who shall be canonically resident in the Diocese, except agents of General Church Boards, Chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, and Clergy engaged chiefly in secular employment, and four Laypersons who are eligible to seats in its Convention, shall be elected by a simple majority of the delegates to Diocesan Convention as Deputies to the General Convention for the next three years; the same number of Alternates similarly qualified shall also be elected.

SECTION 2. Vacancies in the Deputation shall be filled by appointment made by the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **MEMBERS OF "THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI," A CORPORATION**

SECTION 1. The members of the Convention shall, at all times, constitute the membership of the civil corporation organized and created under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Missouri, and known as "The Diocese of West Missouri."

SECTION 2. All actions taken by any Convention shall be deemed to be the action of the members of the civil corporation known as "The Diocese of West Missouri," and shall be binding upon said corporation, and upon the Diocese.

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **THE CATHEDRAL**

The Convention may adopt appropriate canons for the creation, location, support, endowment, and government of a Cathedral for this Diocese, subject to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention.

## ARTICLE XVIII

### DEFINITIONS

Unless it should otherwise appear from the context or be otherwise expressly directed, the following terms shall, for the purpose of the Constitution and Canons of "The Diocese of West Missouri," be construed to mean as follows:

1. The term "The Constitution and Canons of The General Convention" to mean the Constitution and Canons for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, adopted in the General Convention of that Church, held in October, 1789, and all amendments thereof.
2. The term "Constitution and Canons of the Church in this Diocese" to mean the Constitution and Canons of The Diocese of West Missouri.
3. The term "The Church" to mean the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.
4. The term "General Convention" to mean the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.
5. The term "The Convention" to mean the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri.
6. The term "The Ecclesiastical Authority" to mean the Bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri, or the Standing Committee, when authorized to act by the Bishop, or when acting in the absence of the Bishop, or during the Bishop's inability to act.
7. The term "canonically resident" to mean: A cleric, irrespective of place of abode, becomes canonically resident of this Diocese upon ordination by the Bishop of this Diocese, or upon the acceptance of said cleric's Letters Dimissory, and remains as such until said cleric's Letters Dimissory are obtained and accepted by the Ecclesiastical Authority of another Diocese.
8. A layperson becomes "canonically resident" of this Diocese upon enrollment as a member of a parish, mission, or congregation within this Diocese, and remains as such irrespective of place of abode.
9. The term "member" to mean any one who has been baptized and whose baptism has been recorded, and the term "communicant" to mean any member who has received communion at least three times in the preceding year and who is in good standing in the Parish or Congregation to which he or she belongs. An adult communicant shall be a communicant who is sixteen years of age or older.
10. The term "in good standing" to mean a person who has been faithful in corporate worship and working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom, who is not under censure of the Bishop of the Diocese or the Rector of the Parish to which the person belongs.
11. Whenever words importing the plural number are used in describing or referring to any matters, parties or persons, any single matter, party or person shall be deemed to be included, although distributive words may not be used.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution shall not be amended, in whole or in part, by any Convention, unless the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to and approved by the next preceding Convention, nor unless at its final adoption it shall be approved by the Bishop, and shall receive a majority of both Orders, voting separately.

## **ARTICLE XX**

### **REPEAL**

All Articles of every previous Constitution of the Diocese of West Missouri are hereby repealed.

**CANONS  
OF  
THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

**CANON I**

**DIOCESAN CONVENTION - LIST OF CLERGY**

SECTION 1. Within one week before the annual meeting of the Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall cause to be prepared a list, showing the name, residence and official position, if any, of each cleric canonically resident in the Diocese.

SECTION 2. The name of a cleric suspended from the ministry shall not be listed.

SECTION 3. The Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, whose names appear in the list provided for in Section 1 of this Canon, shall be entitled to seats and votes in the Convention as clerical members thereof.

SECTION 4. The full list of clergy entitled to seats and votes in the Convention shall appear in the printed Journal of the proceedings of the Convention.

**CANON II**

**LAY DELEGATES - HOW CHOSEN**

SECTION 1. Before March 1 of each year, the Vestry of each Parish, and the Committee of each Congregation in union with the Diocese shall choose in such manner as they may determine, the delegates by which such Parish or Congregation shall be entitled to be represented in the annual meeting of the Convention for such year.

SECTION 2. At the time at which Delegates to the Convention are chosen, as provided in Section 1 of this Canon, the same number of Alternates shall in like manner be chosen, who shall have the right to seats and vote in the Convention in the absence of the Delegates.

SECTION 3. The names and addresses of the Delegates and Alternates shall be sent to the Secretary of the Diocese no later than the first day of April preceding the annual meeting of the Convention.

SECTION 4. If any Delegates or Alternates chosen to represent a Parish or a Congregation, as provided for in Sections 1 and 2 of this Canon, die, resign, remove from the Parish or Congregation, neglect or refuse to act as such, the Rector of the Parish, or, if there be no such Rector, the Senior Warden, thereof, or the Minister of a Congregation, or, if there be no such Minister, the Warden thereof, shall have the power to fill the vacancy so created, by the appointment of a suitable person, canonically qualified to act as delegate, which appointment shall be certified to the Secretary of the Diocese, as soon as possible before the meeting of the Convention.

## **CANON III**

### **THE SECRETARY OF THE DIOCESE**

SECTION 1. The Secretary of the Diocese shall act as Secretary of the Convention, and also the Secretary of "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation, and shall keep accurate minutes of the meetings of both bodies, and unless otherwise directed by the Convention, shall cause such minutes to be published annually at the expense of the Diocese.

SECTION 2. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Bishop, the Diocesan Council, and the Convention.

SECTION 3. The Convention shall, at the expense of the Diocese, provide for the payment of such compensation as may be provided by resolution, for the services of the Secretary.

SECTION 4. Each parish and congregation shall provide the Secretary of Convention with a list of the names of those persons who have exercised significant ministry within this Diocese and who have died since the previous meeting of the Convention. The Secretary shall compile such lists and said persons shall be acknowledged in the printed Journal of the proceedings of the Convention.

## **CANON IV**

### **THE TREASURER OF THE DIOCESE**

SECTION 1. The Treasurer of the Diocese shall be Treasurer of "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation.

SECTION 2. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the moneys collected under authority of the Convention, and "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation, the disbursement of which shall not be otherwise directed by resolution adopted by the Convention.

SECTION 3. The Treasurer shall report to the Secretary in sufficient time before the assembling of the annual Convention, all Parishes and Congregations, that are delinquent in the payment of their assessments, and all other dues which such Parishes and Congregations were required to pay.

SECTION 4. The Treasurer shall give bond in such amount as shall be determined by the Convention, or the Diocesan Council, at the cost of the Diocese.

SECTION 5. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be covered by resolution adopted by the Convention, or by the Diocesan Council.

SECTION 6. The Convention shall, at the expense of the Diocese, provide for the payment of such compensation as may be provided by resolution, for the services of the Treasurer.

## **CANON V**

### **THE CHANCELLOR**

The Chancellor of the Diocese shall attend all Conventions of the Diocese, the meetings of the Diocesan Council, and such meetings of the Standing Committee as the Chancellor shall be asked to attend, and shall advise the Conventions, the Diocesan Council, and the Standing Committee, upon all matters of law concerning their actions. The Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, the Suffragan Bishop, Rectors and Vestries, may ask and obtain advice of the Chancellor upon any question of law concerning their actions or deliberations. The Chancellor shall have charge and control of all matters of law pertaining to every activity of the Diocese, and shall make reports of such matters to the annual Convention. No conveyance of any property, either to or by the Diocese, shall be made without approval of the Chancellor as to the form of such conveyance, and no Parish or Congregation shall be incorporated without approval as to the form of such incorporation. In general, the Chancellor shall be the law officer of the Diocese, and do and perform all duties usual and customarily pertaining to such office.

## **CANON VI**

### **THE REGISTRAR**

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to collect and preserve, as the property of the Diocese, all documents and papers pertaining to the Diocese, not in the custody of any other officer or Committee thereof; also, the journals and public documents of other Diocesan Conventions, and of the General Convention, and other pamphlets and publications connected with the Church.

SECTION 2. The Registrar shall collect and preserve such material as can be obtained relative to the history of the Diocese, of the Parishes and Congregations thereof, and catalogue and classify all books, documents and papers obtained, so as to make the contents thereof accessible for reference. The Bishop may appoint a Historiographer to assist the Registrar in the collection and preservation of such historical material. A written report of the work of such Historiographer shall be made annually to the Convention of the Diocese.

SECTION 3. The Registrar shall perform such other duties as may be required by resolution adopted by the Convention.

## **CANON VII**

### **THE FISCAL YEAR**

The Diocesan fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January each year, and shall end on the 31st day of December each year.

## **CANON VIII**

### **DEANERIES**

SECTION 1. The Convention may divide the Diocese into Deaneries, and establish their jurisdictional boundaries.

SECTION 2. The Convention may adopt rules, regulations, or provisions concerning Deaneries, their organization, and functions.

## **CANON IX**

### **DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the following members: The Bishop of the Diocese, The Bishop Coadjutor, and the Suffragan Bishop, if there be such; the Secretary and the Treasurer and other officers of the Diocese; eight laypersons and four clergy elected by the Annual Convention, and four laypersons appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese. The Annual Convention shall elect four laypersons and two clergy to serve as members of Council for a two-year period, and the Bishop shall appoint two laypersons to serve for a two-year period. No member of the Diocesan Council may be elected to serve for more than two consecutive two-year terms.

The President of the Episcopal Churchwomen of the Diocese of West Missouri, the President of the Standing Committee, and the Deans of the Deaneries shall be ex-officio members of the Diocesan Council and shall have seat, voice, and vote.

SECTION 2. No person shall be appointed or elected a member of the Diocesan Council who is not an adult communicant of the Church in good standing, and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese.

#### **VACANCIES**

SECTION 3. The Bishop shall have power to fill all vacancies caused by death, resignation or removal from the Diocese or otherwise, of any members of the Diocesan Council appointed by the Bishop, and the Diocesan Council shall have power to fill all vacancies caused by death, resignation, or removal from the Diocese or otherwise, of any member elected by the Convention, except as noted above in Section 1. Members appointed or elected to fill vacancies shall hold office for the unexpired term of the vacant office to which they were appointed or elected. The office of any member of the Diocesan Council who shall be absent from three consecutive meetings of the Council may be declared vacant by the vote of a majority of those present at any meeting of the Council.

## **OFFICERS**

SECTION 4. The Officers of the Diocesan Council shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary. The Bishop of the Diocese shall be President of the Diocesan Council, and shall be the head of all the work of the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council shall elect from its membership a Vice-President. The Secretary of the Diocese shall be ex-officio Secretary of the Diocesan Council.

## **DEPARTMENTS**

SECTION 5. The Diocesan Council shall organize Departments, shall elect chairs thereof, upon nomination by the Bishop, and shall determine the scope and work of each Department.

SECTION 6. The Diocesan Council shall have power to organize, from time to time, such Departments as the work may demand.

SECTION 7. Each Department shall have power to appoint additional members of the Departments.

## **BY-LAWS**

SECTION 8. The Diocesan Council may adopt and enforce all necessary by-laws for its government, and for the government of each Department thereof, which by-laws shall not be in contravention of the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, or of this Diocese, or of any civil law applicable to "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation.

## **MEETINGS**

SECTION 9. The Diocesan Council shall meet and organize immediately following the annual meeting of the Convention and shall also hold meetings at such other times as may be provided by its by-laws. A special Meeting of the Diocesan Council may be called at any time by the Bishop, or by any five members of the Diocesan Council, upon reasonable notice in writing to each member thereof.

SECTION 10. The Diocesan Council and its Departments shall hold sufficient meetings as are necessary and at times as shall be appointed.

## **CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS**

SECTION 11. The Diocesan Council shall be the sole custodian of the records of "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation, The Parochial Trust Fund, a corporation, the Diocesan Board of Church Extension, and all other Diocesan Committees and Boards, except the Standing Committee.

## **QUORUM**

SECTION 12. Seven members of the Diocesan Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **CANON X**

### **DIOCESAN AND PARISH REGISTERS**

SECTION 1. The Bishops, and the Clergy, other than Rectors of Parishes and Ministers in charge of Congregations, shall at once, after having performed the same, notify the Secretary of the Diocese, of all Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Burials, as the case may be, conducted by them, stating the names, ages, residence, and, in case of burials, the place of interment, and in case of Baptisms and Marriages the names of witnesses or sponsors, and other data necessary for the making and preservation of complete records, which shall be entered in a book kept for that purpose by the Secretary of the Diocese.

SECTION 2. Parishes and Congregations shall keep accurate records of the names of members of families and their residences, belonging to the Parish or Congregation, the names, dates and residences of all persons baptized, confirmed, married or buried, which records shall be corrected from time to time, so that the annual report to the Bishop shall accurately show the vital statistics of such Parish or Congregation. The annual Report of each Parish and Mission shall be in the hands of the Secretary of the Diocese not later than February 1st of each year.

SECTION 3. The Convention, or the Diocesan Council, may, by resolution, provide the forms in which records shall be kept.

## **CANON XI**

### **CONGREGATIONS**

SECTION 1. Twenty or more baptized persons of legal age, two, at least, of whom shall be adult communicants of the Church, desiring to organize a Congregation, may make written application to the Bishop and to the Standing Committee, stating that they are residents of the Diocese of West Missouri, and desire to establish and maintain a Congregation of said Diocese, in conformity with the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church, subject to the Ecclesiastical Authority in the Diocese, and pledging at the same time a specified annual sum for maintenance, and promising conformity to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church, and to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and of the Diocese of West Missouri, and the rules and regulations thereof.

SECTION 2. The Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, upon receiving the application mentioned in Section 1 of this Canon, if the Bishop believes the Church will be thereby benefited, may authorize the organization of the Congregation, subject to the approval of the next ensuing Convention, and its admission into union with the Diocese.

SECTION 3. Upon the organization of the Congregation, the Bishop shall appoint a Preliminary Committee of three communicants of the Congregation to represent the Congregation until it is received into union with the Diocese, and when it is so received, the Bishop shall at once appoint, to serve until the first day of January next succeeding, and annually thereafter, a Committee of not less than three persons who shall represent the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the final management of the Congregation. The Bishop shall appoint one member of the Committee as Warden, another member as Secretary, and another member as Treasurer.

SECTION 4. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a Minister, who shall serve such Congregation during the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The minister shall from time to time, appoint the sexton, organist, choir leader, Sunday School superintendent, and other helpers as may be necessary, and remove the same at will; and the minister shall be the ex-officio chair of the Committee.

SECTION 5. The title to all the property of a Congregation shall be vested in "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation; no gift or donation shall be accepted, nor any purchase made, for or by the Congregation, nor any location of a Church site effected, without the consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, nor shall the Congregation incorporate under any civil law without the consent and guidance of the Bishop and the Standing Committee and the guidance of the Chancellor.

SECTION 6. Congregations may be organized and admitted into union with the Diocese under such other rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Convention, which are not in conflict with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention or of the Diocese.

SECTION 7. For statistical purposes, a Congregation that is in union with the Diocese may be designated as a Mission (or Organized Mission); and a Congregation that has not been received into union with the Diocese may be designated as an Unorganized Mission.

## **CANON XII**

### **PARISHES**

SECTION 1. Adult Communicants in good standing and of legal age, residing in this Diocese, or in contiguous counties of adjacent Dioceses, desiring to organize a Parish within this Diocese, shall make written application to the Bishop and to the Standing Committee stating the name of the proposed Parish and giving evidence that, for the calendar year of the application and the calendar year immediately prior to date of application, the Congregation they represent has use or possession of a suitable building, has been served by a priest on a full-time basis, and had paid in full all expenses for the calendar year of application. Said expenses shall include, but not be limited to, 1) the diocesan assessment, 2) normal operating expenditures and 3) either the compensation (stipend and housing) and full benefits (including medical insurance, pension and auto reimbursement) paid for a full-time priest according to the Diocesan Compensation Standard applicable to the priest serving the Congregation for the calendar year of application and the calendar year immediately prior to application or, at the discretion of the Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, any of such expenses for the services of a non-stipendiary priest. Further, the Congregation shall give evidence that they are attached to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and will submit and conform to the same, and also to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese, and will not erect, without consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority, a place at any point within one mile of the place of worship of any other Parish or Congregation of this Diocese, or of land acquired by any other Parish or Congregation of this Diocese for the erection of a place of worship, and that they are able and willing to meet all of the assessments that may be levied upon them for the support of the Church and of this Diocese.

SECTION 2. The Bishop and the Standing Committee, upon receiving the application mentioned in Section 1 of this Canon, may authorize the organization of the Parish subject to the approval of the next ensuing Convention, and its admission into union with the Diocese.

SECTION 3. If the Bishop and the Standing Committee consent to the organization of the proposed Parish, they shall notify the applicants thereof, who shall, within one month of receiving such notice, cause a meeting of such applicants to be held for the purpose of organizing such proposed Parish, when they shall proceed to elect a Vestry and shall if not incorporated take the necessary steps, under the guidance of the Chancellor, for the purpose of being incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri, but its charter must provide that, in case of dissolution, abandonment, inability to function, withdrawal, expulsion or suspension from the Diocese of such Parish, all its property, real, personal and mixed, shall thereupon, without any act of such Parish, at once devolve upon and become the property of "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation, to be held by it for the benefit of the Diocese.

SECTION 4. If the Standing Committee has approved of the organization of the proposed Parish, it shall make a separate report thereon to the next ensuing Convention, whereupon the Convention may admit the Parish into union with the Diocese, in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese, and all rules and regulations thereof.

## **CANON XIII**

### **CONCERNING A CHANGE OF STATUS OF A PARISH OR CONGREGATION**

SECTION 1. When a Parish, which has been admitted into union with the Diocese, shall for three consecutive years fall below the minimum criteria which are canonically required for admission into union with the Diocese, or shall neglect for three consecutive years to make an annual report, it shall be placed upon ecclesiastical and canonical basis of a Congregation with the consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee and subject to ratification of the Diocesan Convention; and the title to all its properties, real, personal and mixed, shall revert to "The Diocese of West Missouri," a corporation, and it shall execute such conveyances and take such other actions, if any, as may be necessary to effect such reversion.

SECTION 2. Whenever any Congregation in union with the Diocese shall neglect for three consecutive years to make an annual report, or shall have failed for the same period to pay its assessments, such Congregation shall be liable to be dissolved.

SECTION 3. The Convention shall be, and hereby is, empowered to decide when such conditions exist and to dissolve Congregation. The Convention shall give written notice of its decision to the Parish or Congregation affected thereby.

SECTION 4. Upon the reduction of the status of a Parish to that of a Congregation the Rector and Vestry of such Parish shall thereby cease to exist as such and the Ecclesiastical Authority shall at once appoint therefore a Minister and a Committee consisting of at least three members of the Congregation; one member of the Committee shall be appointed as a Warden, another as Secretary, and another as Treasurer, to serve as such until the first day of January next succeeding, and the Bishop shall annually thereafter appoint a Minister and a like Committee for such Congregation.

## **CANON XIV**

### **PARISH MEETINGS**

SECTION 1. Each Parish shall hold an annual meeting on such day as the Rector and Vestry may appoint, beginning at an hour of that day fixed by the Vestry, and, if the Parish is incorporated under civil laws, such meeting shall also be the annual meeting of the civil corporation.

The time and place of the annual meeting shall be announced from the Chancel at a service previous to the meeting.

At such Parish meeting, in addition to other business, there shall be elected by ballot, the lay members of a Vestry duly qualified according to the canons of the Diocese.

SECTION 2. Special Parish meetings may be called by the Rector at any time, but the purpose of such special meeting and the day and hour on which it is to be held, shall be announced by the Rector from the Chancel at services on two consecutive Sundays before the time of any such meeting, and by written notice thereof to the Wardens and Secretary of the Vestry. No business shall be transacted at any Special Parish Meeting except that mentioned in the call unless by unanimous consent of those present.

SECTION 3. If there be no Rector, the Senior Warden, if there be such; or the Junior Warden, if there be no Senior Warden; or the Secretary of the Parish, if there be no Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden; or the Treasurer of the Parish, if there be no Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, or Secretary; or, any three members of the Parish, if there be no Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary or Treasurer of the Parish, may call a special Parish meeting, notice of which meeting, stating the object thereof, the day and hour at which the same will be held, shall be given at services on two consecutive Sundays before such time, and, if no such Sunday services are held, by posting a notice thereof upon the door of the Church building, two weeks before the time of the holding of such meeting.

SECTION 4. The Rector shall, upon the written request of the majority of the members of the Vestry, or upon the written request of ten communicants of the Parish in good standing, not being a member of the vestry, call a special meeting of the Parish, and of the corporation, if there be such, to be held within ten days of the day on which the Rector shall have received such written request, and the Rector shall give notice of such special meeting from the Chancel at a Sunday service preceding such meeting, which notice shall state the day and hour at which such special meeting is to be held, and the object thereof; and the Rector shall also notify the Wardens and Secretary of the Vestry, in writing, of the time of such meeting, and the object thereof.

SECTION 5. The Rector, if there be one, shall preside at all Parish meetings and meetings of the civil corporation. If there be no Rector, the Senior Warden, if present when the meeting is called to order, shall preside. If the Senior Warden be not present at the meeting, the Junior Warden, if present when the meeting is called to order, shall preside. If there be no Rector and no Senior Warden or Junior Warden present at the meeting when it is called to order, the meeting shall elect its own presiding officer. The Secretary of the Vestry shall be the Secretary of the meeting. If the Secretary is not present at the meeting when it is called to order, the meeting shall elect its own Secretary.

SECTION 6. In case the Parish is incorporated under civil law, the election of the Vestry, or other governing board thereof, shall be held in conformity with the laws under which the Parish is incorporated, anything in these Canons to the contrary notwithstanding.

SECTION 7. No person shall be entitled to vote at a Parish meeting, unless said person be an adult communicant of the Parish sixteen years of age or older, and one who has regularly contributed to the support of the Parish for a full six months next preceding such meeting, which fact shall be determined by the books of the Treasurer of the Parish, in case any question arises with reference thereto.

SECTION 8. A quorum for the transaction of business at Parish meetings shall consist of at least ten persons qualified to vote at such meetings as herein provided.

## **CANON XV**

### **THE VESTRY**

SECTION 1. The temporal affairs of the Parish, as a voluntary association, and as a civil corporation, shall be managed by a Vestry, composed of not fewer than five adult communicants of the Parish, in good and regular standing, and who have contributed regularly by subscription or otherwise, to the support of the Parish, for at least six months immediately prior to the meeting at which they are elected, and who are conscientiously attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church.

SECTION 2. Members of the vestry shall serve for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified; provided, however, that any parish may at any annual meeting (before the election of the lay members of the vestry) by resolution adopted by a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters present at such meeting determine the length of the term (which shall not exceed three years) for which the vestry shall be elected, and whether or not the vestry members shall be eligible for reelection to succeed themselves. The vestry members first elected under such resolution shall divide themselves into such number of groups (equal in number if possible) as will equal the number of years specified in such resolution and shall draw lots to determine the group to which they shall respectively belong. Group One shall serve for one year, group Two for two years and group Three for three years, and at each succeeding annual meeting the successors for the retiring group shall be elected for a full term of years; provided, further, that any succeeding annual Parish meeting may, by majority vote of the qualified voters present at such meeting set aside and revoke any resolution adopted at any previous Parish meeting relating to the election of vestry members for a term longer than one year, and to their qualifications, and the setting aside and revoking of such resolution shall terminate the term of all vestry members previously elected, and thereafter the new vestry members shall be elected for a term of one year without restrictions as to reelection.

SECTION 3. Vacancies occurring in the Vestry shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Vestry members.

SECTION 4. The Rector shall be a member of the Vestry, and the presiding officer thereof.

SECTION 5. The Rector shall annually appoint a member of the Vestry as Senior Warden. The Vestry shall elect from its own membership a Junior Warden and a Secretary. The Vestry shall also elect a Treasurer who may be chosen from the membership of the Vestry or from the membership of the parish, all of whom shall serve for one year, and until their successors are elected.

SECTION 6. No meeting of the Vestry shall be legal unless the Rector, Wardens and Vestry have been notified by notice given in Divine Service, or otherwise. A majority of the members of the Vestry shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 7. The presiding officer of the Vestry shall, at the Annual Meeting thereof, appoint as many Committees as may be necessary to carry on the business of the Vestry.

SECTION 8. The Vestry may make such by-laws, rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the transaction of business, and change the same from time to time but shall have no power to make any by-law, rule or regulation, or take any action of any kind or nature that violates or runs counter to, or has the effect of violating any provision of the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, or of this Diocese.

SECTION 9. No Vestry, trustee, or other body authorized by civil law to hold the title to property for any Parish or Congregation, shall encumber or alienate the same, or any part thereof, without a two-thirds vote of the whole Vestry, or other governing body thereof, and the written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee; provided, however, that the consent of the Standing Committee shall not be required where the property is to be encumbered by a lien, mortgage or other encumbrance running to the Diocese of West Missouri in order to secure a loan from a Diocesan fund.

SECTION 10. The Treasurer shall take charge of all missionary offerings, and shall make remittance at least quarterly, to the Treasurer of the Diocese, of all moneys so received.

## **CANON XVI**

### **THE CUSTODY OF THE CHURCH BUILDING**

SECTION 1. The Church Building, or other place of worship belonging to any parish or Congregation shall be opened for all Services, Ceremonies, or other purposes authorized or approved of, either by the Church in the United States of America or the Church of the Diocese, represented by the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof, and for no other purpose whatsoever, at such times as the Clergy, or, when there is no Cleric, the Wardens, may deem proper. No Cleric in Charge of a Parish or Congregation, or, in case of a vacancy or absence, no Church Wardens or Vestry member of the same, shall permit any person to officiate therein without sufficient evidence of such person being duly licensed and ordained to minister in this Church (of which evidence, if there be doubt, the Bishop shall be the judge) nor any Cleric of this Church who may be under judicial sentence.

SECTION 2. No Church or Chapel shall be removed, taken down or otherwise disposed of for any unhallowed, worldly or common uses, nor shall any Congregation change the location of its Church or Chapel, nor erect or establish another within the same village, borough or city, without the previous written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

## **CANON XVII**

### **CHANGE OF NAME OF A PARISH OR CONGREGATION**

SECTION 1. Before a Parish or a Congregation may change its name, it must adopt a resolution to that effect at an annual meeting of the Parish or Congregation, which resolution must specify the reasons therefore, and such resolution must be certified by the presiding officers of the meeting of the Parish or Congregation at which it was adopted, and must be presented to the next ensuing Annual Meeting of the Convention whereupon the Convention may adopt a resolution, changing the name of the Parish or Congregation to that requested by the Parish or Congregation, if the change has been approved by the Bishop and Standing Committee.

## **CANON XVIII**

### **DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONS**

SECTION 1. No Rector of any Parish in this Diocese shall resign as such Rector, or accept any other charge or duty, or leave the Parish for a space of three months without the consent of the Vestry of such Parish and of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. If any Rector shall resign, accept any other charge or duty, or leave the Parish for a space of three months, without the consent of the Vestry of such Parish and of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese first had and obtained in writing, then the Rectorate of such Parish shall be deemed ipso facto to be vacant. Such Rector shall be held to be not in good standing, and shall so remain until such Rector shall have made such satisfaction as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese may require.

SECTION 2. If any Rector shall resign as Rector, or accept any other charge or duty, or leave the Parish against the expressed wish of the Vestry thereof, and without the concurrence of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, for a space of three months, the Rector shall be held to have permanently abandoned the Parish. In such event, the Rectorate of the Parish shall ipso facto become vacant, and the Parish no longer shall be liable to such Rector for the payment of any salary, or other temporalities, and such Rector shall thereafter have no right whatever to occupy or use any of the property of the Parish.

SECTION 3. The Vestry of a Parish shall not, by coercive means, attempt to force the resignation of the Rector of the Parish, but when differences exist between the Vestry and the Rector which cannot be settled by mutual forbearance, it shall be the duty of the Vestry to bring the matter to the attention of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and await action thereon, and the Parish whose Vestry so offends shall have no right to a seat in the Convention until such Vestry has made to the Convention a satisfactory explanation of its conduct.

SECTION 4. If, for any urgent reason, a Rector of a Parish, or its Vestry, shall desire a separation and dissolution, of the pastoral relation, and the Rector and Vestry be not agreed respecting such separation and dissolution notice in writing shall be given by either or both parties to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and the Bishop, in case the differences be not settled by the Bishop's godly judgment, or if the Bishop declines to consider the case without counsel, may ask the advice and consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, and proceeding with its aid and counsel, shall at once decide the controversy. The judgment shall be either that the pastoral relation between the parties shall cease and determine at a time and upon the terms therein specified, or that said relation shall not be terminated, which judgment shall be

final and conclusive, and it shall be the duty of both parties to submit to and abide by such judgment. If there be no Bishop of the Diocese at the time, the Standing Committee thereof shall select a Bishop of an adjacent Diocese to act as the Bishop, and the judgment of said neighboring Bishop in the premises shall be of the same force and effect as if such Bishop were Bishop of the Diocese.

## **CANON XIX**

### **VACANT RECTORATES**

SECTION 1. Whenever the Rectorate of a Parish becomes vacant for any cause, its Vestry shall immediately notify the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, provide for temporary maintenance of pastoral services therein, and proceed at the earliest possible moment to fill the vacancy.

SECTION 2. A Rector of a Parish shall only be elected at a regular meeting of the Vestry, or at a special meeting of the Vestry duly convened for that purpose, and it shall require a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Vestry present at the meeting to elect a Rector.

SECTION 3. No election of a Rector shall be had until the name of the Cleric whom it is proposed to elect has been made known to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and a sufficient time, not exceeding thirty days, has been given the Ecclesiastical Authority within which to investigate and to communicate with the Vestry.

SECTION 4. The Vestry shall, immediately upon the election of a Rector, notify in writing the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of such election, stating the name of the Cleric whom said Vestry has elected Rector of its Parish. Whereupon, the Ecclesiastical Authority, if satisfied that the Cleric so chosen is duly qualified, shall do all things necessary to enable the Cleric so elected to canonically accept and retain the Rectorate of the Parish.

## **CANON XX**

### **RECTORS AND THEIR DUTIES**

SECTION 1. The spiritual affairs of the Parish are vested in the Rector thereof, subject of the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese and the godly counsel, advice and direction of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and the Rector shall have full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining thereto, and at all times be entitled to the use and control of all the buildings and grounds of the Parish and of all the furniture therein, and appurtenances thereto belonging.

SECTION 2. No Rector shall be obligated to receive into the Parish as a regular communicant any person who does not lodge with the Rector a certificate showing such person to be a communicant in good standing in some other Parish, signed by the Rector of such other Parish, or, if there be no Rector thereof, by one of the Wardens, or, if not signed by the Rector of the Parish or by one of the Wardens thereof, by the Bishop of the Diocese.

## CANON XXI

### ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. In all matters of ecclesiastical discipline, effective January 1, 1996, the Diocese of West Missouri shall follow and be governed by Title IV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church as adopted at General Convention in 1994, and as amended from time to time hereafter. Except as otherwise expressly provided or when the content otherwise requires, capitalized words as used in this Canon shall have the same meanings as those set forth in Title IV, Canon XV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

SECTION 2. There shall be within and for the Diocese of West Missouri an Ecclesiastical Trial Court consisting of five members canonically resident in the Diocese and whose actual place of abode is in this Diocese or a county adjoining this Diocese. Three members shall be Priests or Deacons and two shall be lay adult confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church. Within two months following each Diocesan Convention, the members of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall elect a Presiding Judge from its members and shall make provision for a Church Attorney to be appointed by the Standing Committee for a term of three years.

SECTION 3. Members of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be divided into three classes and elected at the Convention of the Diocese. The composition of each class shall be as follows:

Class 1 shall be composed of one Priest or Deacon;

Class 2 shall be composed of one Priest or Deacon and one lay person;

Class 3 shall be composed of one Priest or Deacon and one lay person.

At the Convention of the Diocese held in 1995, the members of all classes shall be elected for the following terms:

Class 1	--	3 Years
Class 2	--	2 Years
Class 3	--	1 Year

In subsequent Conventions, members of each class whose terms expire shall be elected for a three-year term. No member of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall succeed himself or herself after the expiration of his or her second successive full term, but he or she shall be eligible for reelection after the lapse of one year from the expiration of such second full term.

SECTION 4. The death, disability rendering a person unable to act, termination of canonical residence, termination of place of abode within this Diocese or in a county adjoining this Diocese, resignation or declination to serve as a member of an Ecclesiastical Trial Court, shall constitute a vacancy on the Court.

SECTION 5. Notice of resignations or declinations to serve shall be given by members of the Court in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Court.

SECTION 6. If any Priest elected to the Ecclesiastical Trial Court is elected a Bishop, or if any lay person elected to the Ecclesiastical Trial Court is ordained, that person shall immediately cease to be a member of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court. If either event occurs following the commencement of a Trial, the person shall continue to serve until the completion of the Trial and the rendering of a Verdict thereon.

SECTION 7. Vacancies occurring in the Ecclesiastical Trial Court, other than for cause under Section 8 of this Canon, shall be filled by a person from the same order elected by the vote of a majority of the persons present at the meeting of the Diocesan Council immediately following that date on which the vacancy occurred. The person so elected shall serve for the remainder of the term of the person whose vacancy he or she fills and shall be eligible for reelection when such term expires.

SECTION 8. Trials shall be conducted before the full Ecclesiastical Trial Court. A member of the Court or person elected to serve in the place of such member under this Section 8 may be challenged by either the Respondent or the Church Attorney for cause stated to the Court. The Court shall determine the relevancy and validity of challenges for cause. In addition, the Respondent and the Church Attorney shall each have one peremptory challenge, which may be used against a member of the Court or person elected to serve in the place of such member under this Section 8. Vacancies caused by challenges shall be filled by majority vote of the Court from persons otherwise qualified for election under the Canons of the Diocese and such person shall serve until the completion of the Trial and the rendering of a Verdict thereon. Following such Verdict, the member challenged shall resume his or her duties as a member of the Court. Vacancies filled by the Court shall be from the same order as the person challenged was when elected to the Court.

SECTION 9. The Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be governed by the portion of The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure set forth in Appendix A to these Canons.

SECTION 10. The Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be governed by The Federal Rules of Evidence as applied in criminal cases in the conduct of the Trial.

SECTION 11. The Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall appoint a Clerk and, if necessary, Assistant Clerks, who shall be Priests or Deacons or adult confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church, and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Court.

SECTION 12. The Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall appoint a Reporter who shall provide for the recording of the proceedings and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Court.

SECTION 13. The Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall appoint at least one but no more than three Lay Assessors. Lay Assessors shall have no vote. It shall be their duty to give the Ecclesiastical Trial Court an opinion on any question of law, procedure or evidence, but not on any question of doctrine, upon which the Court or any member thereof, or either party, shall desire an opinion. Any question of whether a question is a matter of doctrine shall be decided by the Court by a majority vote.

SECTION 14. The Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall keep a record of the proceedings in each case brought before it and the record shall be certified by the Presiding Judge of the Court. If the record cannot be authenticated by the Presiding Judge by reason of the Presiding Judge's death, disability or absence, it shall be authenticated by a member of the Court designated for that purpose by majority vote of the Court.

SECTION 15. The Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall permit the Respondent to be heard in person and by counsel of the Respondent's own selection. In every Trial, the Court may regulate the number of counsel who may address the Court or examine witnesses.

SECTION 16. The Respondent shall then be called upon by the Court to plead to the Presentment and the plea shall be duly recorded; and on neglect or refusal of the Respondent to plead, the plea of not guilty shall be entered for the Respondent, and the Trial shall proceed; *Provided*, that for sufficient cause the court may adjourn from time to time; and *Provided, also*, that the Respondent shall, at all times during the Trial, have liberty to be present, and in due time and order to produce testimony and to make a defense.

SECTION 17. In all Ecclesiastical Trials, the Church Attorney appointed pursuant to Section 2 of this Canon shall appear on behalf of the Standing Committee which shall then be considered the party on one side and the Respondent the party on the other. Unless prohibited under the Federal Rules of Evidence, each Complainant and Victim shall be entitled to be present throughout and observe the Trial and for each to be accompanied by a person of their own choosing and counsel of their own choosing.

SECTION 18. Before a vote is taken on the findings and in the presence of the Respondent and counsel, counsel for the parties may submit requested proposed instructions. The Presiding Judge of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court, after consultation with the Lay Assessors, shall declare which of the proposed instructions shall be issued and also instruct the members of the Court as to the elements of the Offense and charge them (i) that the Respondent must be presumed to be innocent until the Respondent's guilt is established by clear and convincing evidence, and unless such standard of proof be met the Respondent must be acquitted, and (ii) that the burden of proof to establish the guilt of the Respondent is upon the Church Attorney

SECTION 19. A separate vote shall be taken first upon the findings as to the guilt of the Respondent.

SECTION 20. Voting by members of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court on the findings shall be by secret ballot. No member shall disclose his or her vote or the vote of any member except to the Presiding Judge.

SECTION 21. For a Judgment on any Offense, whether involving Crime, Immorality, Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy or otherwise, the affirmative vote of four-fifths of the members of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be necessary.

SECTION 22. The Presiding Judge shall cause the Respondent, the Church Attorney, each Complainant, and unless waived in writing, the Victim to be advised of and provided with a copy of the findings of the Court.

SECTION 23. No vote shall be taken on the Sentence to be adjudged until thirty days from the date the Respondent was advised of the Judgment during which period the Respondent shall have a reasonable opportunity to offer to the Court matters in excuse or mitigation.

SECTION 24. During the same period, the Court shall provide an opportunity for statements from Complainants or Victims to the Court pertaining to the Sentence to be adjudged and imposed.

SECTION 25. During the same period, the Church Attorney may make a recommendation to the Court as to the Sentence to be adjudged. Voting by members of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court on the sentence shall be by secret ballot. No member shall disclose his or her vote or the vote of any member except to the Presiding Judge.

SECTION 26. The concurrence of four-fifths of the members of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be necessary to adjudge and impose a Sentence upon a Respondent found guilty by the Court.

SECTION 27. The Judgment or acquittal and any Sentence adjudged on a Judgment shall be communicated promptly to the Bishop, the Ecclesiastical Authority, if there be no Bishop, the Standing Committee, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident, the Respondent, each Complainant, and, unless waived in writing, the Victim.

SECTION 28. The Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority, if there be no Bishop, shall cause written notice to be served on the Respondent, the Church Attorney, each Complainant, and, unless waived in writing, the Victim of (i) the Judgment, (ii) the Sentence adjudged and (iii) the Sentence to be pronounced by the Bishop. Within thirty days after the service of that notice the Respondent may appeal to the Court of Review by serving a written notice of appeal on the Bishop, or upon the Ecclesiastical Authority, if there be no Bishop, and a copy on the Presiding Judge of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court and the Presiding Judge of the Court of Review. The notice shall be signed by the Respondent or the Respondent's counsel and shall briefly set forth the decision from which the appeal is taken and the grounds of the appeal.

SECTION 29. After Judgment by an Ecclesiastical Trial Court, the Bishop shall not pronounce Sentence on the Respondent before the expiration of thirty days after the Respondent shall have been served as set forth in Section 28 with the notice of the decision of the Court and the Sentence adjudged, nor, in case an appeal is taken, shall Sentence be pronounced pending the hearing and final determination thereof.

SECTION 30. Any legal fees and other disbursements of the Church Attorney shall be the responsibility of this Diocese, unless the Trial was held as a service or convenience to another Diocese from which the Presentment issued, in which case the responsibility therefore shall be that of the Diocese from which the Presentment was issued. Any legal fees and costs incurred by the Respondent shall be the responsibility of the Respondent.

## **CANON XXII**

### **DISCIPLINE OF THE LAITY**

SECTION 1. Every member of the Church is subject to the law of the Church as contained in The Book of Common Prayer, and in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and of this Diocese.

SECTION 2. Subject to the approval of the Bishop, the Rector of a Parish or the Minister of a Congregation may designate as being under censure any communicant or baptized person, as the case may be, deemed to have offended against the provisions of Section I, and the Rector or Minister shall so inform said person of the censure, together with the reasons therefore.

## **CANON XXIII**

### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

SECTION 1. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect a Commission on the Ministry consisting of twelve persons from the Diocese: six in the clerical order and six in the lay order. Additional members, not to exceed six in number, may be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority after consultation with the Commission. For every two additional members appointed, one must be in the clerical and one in the lay order.

SECTION 2. The members of the Commission on Ministry shall hold office for the term of three years and may succeed themselves for additional terms.

SECTION 3. Any Deacon who has been accepted, prepared and ordained specifically for diaconal ministry and who subsequently desires to be an ordained priest must reapply for ordination to the presbyterate and be accepted for screening in preparation for the presbyterial ministry, according to Title 3, Canon 2, of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

## **CANON XXIV**

### **EXAMINING CHAPLAINS**

SECTION 1. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect a Board of Examining Chaplains, consisting of at least two Presbyters within the Diocese.

SECTION 2. The members of the Board of Examining Chaplains shall hold office for the term of three years.

## **CANON XXV**

### **ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. No proposed alteration or amendment to the Canons of this Diocese shall be considered by the Convention, unless at least one day's previous notice thereof in writing shall be given in an open meeting thereof, unless by two-thirds affirmative vote of the Convention this rule be set aside. Such proposed alterations or amendments shall be referred to and reported on by the Committee on Constitution and Canons, before action thereon can be taken by the Convention. A simple majority vote shall control as to the adoption or rejection of any proposed alterations or amendments except where it is otherwise specifically provided.

SECTION 2. The Bishop shall have the right of veto upon all Canons adopted by the Convention.

SECTION 3. All Canonical enactments shall be effective from and after the date of approval by the Bishop.

## **CANON XXVI**

### **CATHEDRAL**

SECTION 1. The Cathedral is established to the glory of God and the good of all people. It is the Diocesan Church of the Diocese of West Missouri and is a house of prayer for all people who may resort thereto to worship God.

SECTION 2. Grace and Holy Trinity Church in Kansas City shall be the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of West Missouri.

SECTION 3. The word "Parish" wherever used in the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese shall be taken to include the Cathedral Church.

SECTION 4. The Cathedral Church shall have the same proportionate lay representations in the Annual Convention of the Diocese and shall be subject to the same duties, liabilities, apportionments and assessments as it would have or be subject to if it had remained a Parish church.

SECTION 5. The management of all the temporal affairs of the Cathedral Church is the responsibility of the Cathedral Vestry. This Vestry shall be elected and governed in accordance with the Diocesan Canons, which relate to the Vestries of all Parishes of the Diocese, the same as if the Parish Church had not been designated as the Cathedral Church.

SECTION 6. To the Bishop and to the Dean jointly, shall belong the ordering of the services of the Cathedral. The Cathedral shall be at all times at the disposal of the Bishop for special services, and the Bishop shall take such part in Divine Services and shall preach at such times as the Bishop may see fit, due notice being given to the Dean of the Bishop's intention to do so.

SECTION 7. The Dean shall be nominated by the Bishop and shall be elected by the Cathedral Vestry. The Dean shall be the presiding officer of the Cathedral Vestry.

SECTION 8. The number of Canons of the Cathedral shall be determined by the Bishop, Dean, and Cathedral Vestry. By the words, "Canon of the Cathedral" as used in this section, shall be understood to mean any Presbyter in good standing in the Diocese of West Missouri, and canonically resident in the Diocese of West Missouri, chosen as herein provided. The Canons of the Cathedral shall be elected by the Vestry on the joint nomination of the Bishop and the Dean, for the discharge of such duties in the worship, preaching and work of the Cathedral as may be assigned to them.

SECTION 9. This Canon shall become effective when passed by the Annual Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri, and when the written consent of the Bishop of the Diocese, the Rector of Grace and Holy Trinity Church, Kansas City, Missouri, has been filed with the Secretary of the Diocese. This Canon shall not be amended, changed or modified, unless the written consent in each instance, is first obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese, from the Rector of Grace and Holy Trinity Church of Kansas City, hereafter to be designated as Dean; and from Grace and Holy Trinity Church of Kansas City, Missouri, hereafter to be designated as Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral of Kansas City, Missouri.

SECTION 10. Any Canons of the Diocese in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, modified and changed to the extent as provided by this Canon.

SECTION 11. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect in any respect the title to the property now owned or held by Grace and Holy Trinity Church of Kansas City, Missouri.

## **CANON XXVII**

### **REPEAL**

All Canons of this Diocese, adopted prior to the Council of 1924, are hereby repealed.

**RULES OF ORDER**  
**GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS OF THE**  
**CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

1. When the President takes the Chair no member shall continue standing, or shall afterwards stand up, unless to address the chair.
2. When the President shall have taken the chair, the minutes of the preceding day shall be read.
3. The President shall appoint such Committees as are in his opinion, necessary, and the Committee members shall be notified as early as possible before Convention opens.
4. All Committees shall be appointed by the President, unless otherwise ordered.
5. No resolution shall be considered as before the House until it has been reduced to writing, presented to the Bishop and to the Secretary, and introduced by title at Convention. Any resolution which has not been presented to the Bishop and to the Secretary six weeks prior to the Convention date will not be considered as before the House unless copies of such resolution are made available to every delegate and, at Convention, two-thirds of said delegates agree to consider such resolution.
6. When any member is about to speak, or deliver any matter to the House, he shall, with due respect, address himself to the President, confining himself strictly to the point in the debate.
7. No member shall absent himself from the session of the House unless he have leave or be unable to attend.
8. A member, other than the Chairman of a Committee whose report is under consideration, shall not speak more than twice in the same debate, nor longer than ten minutes at a time, without leave of the House.
9. Any member of the House may call for a vote by ayes and nays.
10. When a question has once been determined, it shall stand as the judgment of the House, and shall not again be drawn into debate, except on motion for reconsideration, which must be made by a member who had previously voted in the majority.
11. When a question is under consideration, a motion shall not be received, except to lay on the table, to postpone it until a certain time, to postpone indefinitely, to commit it, to divide it or amend it; and motions for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order herein named. If a motion to lay an amendment on the table be carried, the matter before the House shall be proceeded with as if no such amendment had been offered. The motions to lay on the table and to adjourn shall be decided without debate. The motion to adjourn shall always be in order.
12. Debate shall not be allowed upon a resolution to refer any motion to a Committee, or a motion to recommit any subject, which has been before a Committee, but the member who offers such resolution or motion may speak for five minutes for the purpose of explaining its object.
13. All amendments shall be considered in the reverse order in which they are moved. When a proposed amendment is under consideration a motion to amend the same day may be made. An after amendment to such second amendment shall not be in order, but when an amendment to an amendment is under consideration, a substitute for the whole may be received. A proposition, different from the one under consideration, shall not be received under color of an amendment or substitute.
14. Every member who may be in the house when any question is put, shall, on a division, be counted, unless he is excused by the Convention.

15. All questions of order shall be decided in the first instance by the Chair, without debate; an appeal, however, may be made from his decision to the Convention by any member of the same.
16. The Secretary may employ one or more pages, not exceeding three, to act as messengers during the sessions of the Convention.
17. The reports of all Committees shall be in writing, and shall be received, of course, and without motion for acceptance, unless recommended by vote of the House. All reports recommending or requiring any action or expression of opinion by the House shall be accompanied by a resolution for the action or expression of opinion by the House shall be accompanied by a resolution for the action of the House therein.
18. The names of movers of resolutions shall appear upon the minutes of the Convention.
19. In all other matters of parliamentary procedure, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard book of reference.
20. The Rules of Order shall not be suspended except by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
21. After the first ballot has been announced, the nominee (clergy and/or lay) with the least number of votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees. This process shall continue after each balloting until there is one more than the number of persons to be elected. This shall not apply to votes by orders.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Announcement by Secretary as to whether a quorum is present.
2. Election of Secretary of the Diocese.
3. Announcements.
4. Report of Committee on Dispatch of Business.
5. Introduction of all resolutions for reference.
6. Nominations for all other offices.
7. Reports of all officers and committees.
8. Elections.
9. Report of all resolutions previously referred.
10. Fixing time and place of next Convention.

#### **REGARDING RESOLUTIONS**

Beginning with the Convention of this Diocese meeting in 1973, copies of all resolutions to be presented for substantive Convention action must be submitted to the Bishop and the Secretary of the Convention not later than six (6) weeks prior to the Convention date, so that copies of these resolutions may be distributed in advance to each delegate, and to the various deaneries.

No resolutions may be accepted at the Convention which have not been previously submitted as aforesaid, unless:

- (1) Copies of such resolutions are made available for every delegate, and
- (2) Two-thirds of said delegates agree to consider such resolution.

***Adopted by the 1972 Diocesan Convention***

## Index to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri

### A

Abandonment of Congregations or Parishes .....	5,9
Admission of new Congregations or Parishes .....	5,9
Allegiance of the Diocese .....	1
Amendments,	
Canons .....	32
Constitution .....	13
Annual Report .....	19
Archdeacons .....	6
Assessments .....	5,7
Delinquencies .....	5,7
Assistant Secretary .....	6
Associate Chancellor .....	4,6
Associate Treasurer .....	4

### B

Bishop	
Coadjutor .....	1,3,6,17,30
Diocesan - see Diocesan Bishop	
Election of .....	3
Suffragan .....	2,3
Bishop's Committee .....	20,22
Board of Examining Chaplains .....	32
Boundaries of the Diocese .....	4
Bylaws	
of Diocesan Council .....	18
of Vestries .....	24

### C

Canonical residence .....	7,12,13
Canons, Amendment of .....	32
Cathedral .....	11,32,33
Chancellor .....	2,3,4,6,16
Change of name, Congregation or Parish .....	25,26
Change of status, Congregation or Parish .....	21,25
Church Attorney .....	27,28,29,30,31
Church Building, control and custody of .....	24,26
Civil Law .....	11,22,23,24,28
Clergy	
conformity of .....	1,9
discipline of .....	28
election of .....	2
license to officiate .....	24
list of .....	14
Coadjutor .....	2,3,6,30
Commission on Ministry .....	31
Committee of a Congregation .....	19,21

Committees	
of the Convention .....	6
of a Vestry .....	25
Communicant	
definition of .....	12
transfer of .....	26
Conformity	
of Clergy .....	1,2,5,9,10,26,31
of Congregations .....	9,10,19
of Convention .....	5
of Convention Delegates .....	7
of Diocese .....	1
of Laity .....	5,31
of Parishes .....	5,20
of Vestries .....	23,24
Congregations	
Abandonment of .....	5,9
Admission of .....	9,20
Change of location of .....	24
Change of name of .....	24
Change of status of .....	21,25
Committee of .....	19,20,22
Dissolution of .....	5,9
Expulsion and Suspension of .....	5,9
Formation of .....	19
Merger of .....	5,9
Minister of .....	19,20
Property of .....	9,19
Consolidation of Parishes .....	5
Constitution, Amendment of .....	13
Convention, see Diocesan Convention or General Convention	
Counties of the Diocese .....	4
Court, the Ecclesiastical Trial .....	5,27-31
Custodian of Records .....	18

## D

Deacons	
Ordination of Presbyterate .....	32
Local .....	32
Deaneries .....	2,16,17
Definition of terms .....	12
Delinquent assessments .....	7
Departments of Diocesan Council .....	17,18
Deputies to General Convention .....	11
Diocesan Bishop .....	2
Conformity of .....	1
Election of .....	3
and Congregations .....	19
and Convention .....	6,7,8
and Diocesan Council .....	17
and Dissolution of Pastoral Relations .....	25

and Ecclesiastical Trial Court.....	30
and Parishes .....	20
Diocesan Convention	
Clerical membership .....	6,14
Committees of .....	6
Conformity of.....	5
Decisions of.....	5
Lay delegates.....	6,7,14
Lay representation .....	7,14
Meeting .....	7,8
Members .....	6,7,8,11
Minutes of.....	15
Notice of .....	8
Officers of.....	3,6
Order of Business .....	35
Powers of .....	5,10,16
Quorum .....	8
Rules of Order.....	34
Special Meetings of.....	8
Transaction of business .....	8
Voting .....	3,8
Worship during .....	8
Diocesan Council.....	10,11,17
Absence from .....	17
Bylaws.....	18
Departments of.....	18
Meetings of.....	18
Membership of .....	17
Officers of.....	17,18
Powers of .....	10,17
Quorum of .....	18,19
Vacancies in.....	17
Diocesan Officers.....	2,17,18
Election of .....	3
Diocese	
Allegiance of.....	1
Boundaries of .....	4
Counties of .....	4
Definition of .....	1
Historical Records .....	16
Jurisdiction of .....	4
Name of.....	2
Membership of .....	17
Diocesan Registrar .....	16
Discipline	
of the clergy.....	1,27
of the laity.....	27,31
Dissolution of a Congregation or Parish .....	5,10
Dissolution of Pastoral Relations .....	25

**E**

Ecclesiastical Trial Court

Bishop .....	30
Challenges .....	28
Church Attorney .....	27,28,29,30
and Standing Committee.....	27,29
Clerk, Assistant Clerk.....	28
Complainant.....	29,30
Counsel.....	28,29
Declinations or Resignations.....	28
Instructions.....	29
Judgments.....	30
Lay Assessors.....	28,29
Legal Fees .....	31
Members of .....	27
Pleading to the Presentment.....	29
Presiding Judge of .....	27
Records of.....	29
Reporter .....	28
Respondent.....	28,29,30
Rules of Civil Procedure.....	28
Rules of Evidence .....	28
Sentence .....	30
Vacancies on.....	27,28
Victim .....	29,30
Voting.....	29,30
Election of Bishops .....	1,3
of Church Attorney .....	27
of Clergy.....	3
of Convention Officers.....	10
of Ecclesiastical Trial Court.....	27
of Deputies to General Convention .....	11
of Diocesan Officers.....	2,3
of Diocesan Council .....	18
of Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention .....	7,14
of Rector.....	26
of Standing Committee.....	10
of Vestry .....	21,24
Examining Chaplains .....	32
Expulsion of a Congregation or Parish .....	10

**F**

Fiscal Year .....	16
Formation of Congregations .....	19
of Parishes .....	20

**G**

General Convention

Conformity to .....	1,2,5,7,9,10,20,23,24,27,31
Definition of .....	13
Deputies to .....	11

## H

Historical Records of the Diocese .....	16
Historiographer .....	16

## J

Judicial Body .....	5
Jurisdiction of the Diocese .....	4

## L

Laitry, discipline of .....	5,30
Lay delegates to Diocesan Convention	
Choice of .....	7,14
Qualifications of .....	7
Lay representation in Diocesan Convention .....	7,14
License to Officiate .....	24
List of clergy .....	14

## M

Meetings	
of the Convention .....	3,8
of Diocesan Council .....	18
of a Parish .....	22
of a Vestry .....	24
Membership	
of the Convention .....	7,12
of the Diocese .....	2
of Diocesan Council .....	17
Merger of Parishes .....	5
Minister of a Congregation .....	20
Missions, see Congregations	

## N

Name of the Diocese .....	2
Name change, Congregation or Parish .....	25
New officers, creation of .....	3
New Congregations and Parishes, admission of .....	9,19
Notice of Convention .....	8

## O

Officers	
of the Convention .....	3,6
of the Diocese .....	2

of Diocesan Council .....	17
of a Vestry .....	24
Order of Business of Convention .....	35
Order, Rules of, of Convention .....	34

**P**

Parish Register .....	19
Parishes .....	20
Abandonment of .....	5,9
Admission of .....	9,20
Change of status of .....	21,25
Consolidation of .....	5
Dissolution of .....	5,9
Formation of .....	5,20
Incorporation of .....	16,22
Meetings of .....	21,22
Merger of .....	5
Property of .....	5,9,10,16,20,24
Spiritual Affairs of .....	26
Temporal Affairs of .....	23
Pastoral Relations, Dissolution of .....	26
Powers of the Convention .....	5
Preamble .....	1
President of the Convention .....	6
Property	
of a Congregation .....	9,10,16,19
of a Parish .....	5,9,10,16,20,24

**Q**

Quorum	
of the Convention .....	8
of Diocesan Council .....	18
of a Parish Meeting .....	23
of a Vestry .....	24

**R**

Records of the Diocese .....	6,15,16,18,19
Rector, Rectorate	
Duties of .....	26
Election of .....	1,26
Resignation of .....	25
Vacancies of .....	26

Records	
and Registrar .....	16
and Diocesan Council .....	18
and Historiographer .....	16

and Standing Committee.....	18
and Ecclesiastical Trial Court.....	28
and Secretary of the Diocese.....	6,15,18
Register	
Diocesan .....	18
Parish .....	18
Registrar of the Diocese .....	2,3,4,16
Repeal	
of previous Constitution.....	14
of prior Canons.....	33
Resignation of a Rector .....	25
Revision of the Constitution .....	13
Rules of Order.....	8,34

### S

Secretary of the Convention .....	6
of the Diocese .....	2,3,4,6,14,15,17
Standing Committee .....	10,11
and Church Attorney .....	27,28
and Church Property .....	24
and Congregations.....	19,21
and Dissolution of Pastoral Relations .....	25
and Election of Bishops.....	3
and Judgments of Ecclesiastical Trial Court .....	30
and Parishes .....	20,21
and Presidents of Convention .....	6
Suffragan Bishops.....	2,3,6
Suspension of a Congregation or Parish .....	10,22

### T

Terms, Definitions of .....	12
Terms of office, see office concerned	
Transfer of Communicants.....	28
Treasurer of the Diocese .....	2,4,6,15,17
Trial, see Ecclesiastical Trial Court	

**V**

Vacancies  
    in Delegates to Diocesan Convention ..... 14  
    in Deputies to General Convention ..... 11  
    in Diocesan Council ..... 17  
    in Presidency of Convention ..... 6  
    in presidency at Parish Meetings ..... 22  
    on Ecclesiastical Trial Court ..... 27  
    on Standing Committee ..... 10  
Vacant Rectorates ..... 26  
Vestry ..... 23,24  
    and Dissolution of Pastoral Relations ..... 25  
    and Election of a Rector ..... 27  
    and Parish Meetings ..... 21,22  
    and Vacant Rectorates ..... 26  
Voting  
    in Congregations ..... 22  
    in Convention ..... 3,8  
    in Ecclesiastical Trial Court ..... 29

**W**

Wardens  
    of Congregations ..... 19  
    and Custody of Church Buildings ..... 24  
    of Parishes ..... 23,24  
    and Parish Meetings ..... 22  
    and Custody of Church Buildings ..... 24

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That we, the undersigned, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the Constitution of the State of Missouri, and according to the laws thereof relating to benevolent, religious, scientific and educational associations, enter into the following agreement, and declare the same to be our Articles of Incorporation.

FIRST: The name of this corporation shall be, The Diocese of West Missouri.

SECOND: The principal office of this corporation shall be located at Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

THIRD: This corporation shall continue until it shall voluntarily surrender its corporate rights, or until it shall be dissolved by proceedings instituted by the State under any law now in force, or that may hereafter be enacted.

Amended by Decree dated October 25, 1977:

FOURTH: This corporation is formed for the purpose of taking and holding title to such real estate as is or may be prescribed by law for church edifices, parish houses, rectories and cemeteries and for the further purpose of owning church buildings, rectories, and parish houses, and owning, maintaining and operating cemeteries, schools, colleges, institutes, academies and other institutions devoted to religious, charitable, educational and scientific purposes, and for the further purpose of owning, maintaining and operating hospitals, asylums and houses of refuge, reformatories, and such other buildings as may be deemed necessary for its religious, charitable and educational work, and for the further purpose of acquiring and holding, through gifts, legacies or devises, such property as may lawfully fall to it, and for the further purpose of executing any trust, the purpose of which falls within the purview of Article 10, Chapter 33, of the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri, 1909.

Amended by Decree dated October 25, 1977:

FIFTH: This corporation shall have power to impose such dues and collect and raise such revenues as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of conducting and maintaining religious services and carrying on such educational, scientific and charitable work as it may undertake, and for the further purpose of acquiring such property, both real and personal, as may be deemed necessary for the purposes and objects for which this corporation is formed, and the improvement and maintenance thereof; but this corporation shall not engage in any business for pecuniary profit.

SIXTH: This corporation acknowledges its allegiance in ecclesiastical affairs to be due to the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, and accedes to, recognizes and accepts the constitution, canons, doctrine, discipline and worship of that branch thereof known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and accedes to, recognizes and

accepts the constitution and canons of the Diocese of said Church, in which the principal office of this corporation may be located.

SEVENTH: All of the property belonging to this corporation or the proceeds thereof, shall be held, handled, used and disposed of according to the constitution and canons of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and of the Diocese thereof, in which the principal office of this corporation may be located.

EIGHTH: The affairs of this corporation shall be controlled by an Executive Council, consisting of such number of persons having such qualifications, elected in such manner, and for such time and performing such duties as may be prescribed by the constitution and canons of the Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America in which the principal office of this corporation may be located. The names of those agreed upon as members of the Executive Council until their successors shall be elected and qualified as above provided, are: Sidney C. Partridge, Edwin F. Wilcox, and H. L. Arnold.

NINTH: The Executive Council shall have power to mortgage or otherwise encumber, sell or dispose of, or otherwise transfer, upon such terms as may be deemed best, any part, or all of the property belonging to this corporation, whether the same be real, personal or mixed, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that no real estate belonging to this corporation shall be mortgaged or otherwise encumbered, sold, or otherwise conveyed or transferred without the affirmative vote of two thirds of all of the members of the Executive Council, and shall have power to adopt a corporate seal and change the same at will, and shall have power to do and perform all other acts and things that may be deemed necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and objects for which this corporation is formed.

TENTH: These Articles of Incorporation shall at no time be amended so as to remove this corporation or its property from the control of that branch of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, which control shall at all times be regulated by the constitution and canons of said Church, and the constitution and canons of the Diocese thereof, in which the principal office of this corporation may be located, and any amendment which would remove this corporation or its property from such control, shall be deemed not to be germane to the objects and purposes for which this corporation is formed.

Amended by Decree dated October 25, 1977:

ELEVENTH: Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Executive Council shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Council shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**APPENDIX**

**DEANERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

Section 1. The Diocese of West Missouri shall be divided into four (4) geographical Deaneries as follows:

(1) Names and Territories

(a) The Metropolitan Deanery shall encompass the following parishes and congregations:

Kansas City, All Saints	Kansas City, St. Mary Magdalene
Kansas City, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral	Kansas City, St. Mary's
Kansas City, St. Andrew's	Kansas City, St. Paul's
Kansas City, St. Augustine's	Kansas City, St. Peter's

(b) The Central Deanery shall consist of the following parishes and congregations:

Blue Springs, Resurrection	Northeast Regional Ministry
Clinton, St. Paul's	Boonville, Christ
Harrisonville, St. Peter's	Fayette, St. Mary's
Independence, St. Michael's	Lexington, Christ
Independence, Trinity	Marshall, Trinity
Lee's Summit, St. Anne's	Raytown, St. Matthew's
Lee's Summit, St. Paul's	Sedalia, Calvary
	Warrensburg, Christ

(c) The Northern Deanery shall consist of the following parishes and congregations:

Chillicothe, Grace	Sacred Hills Regional Ministry
Excelsior Springs, St. Luke's	Maryville, St. Paul's
Kansas City, Good Shepherd	Savannah, St. Mary's
Kansas City, Redeemer	St. Oswald's in the Fields
Liberty, Grace	St. Joseph, Christ
	Trenton, St. Philip's (NERM)

(d) The Southern Deanery shall consist of the following parishes and congregations:

Bolivar, St. Alban's in the Ozarks	Mountain Grove, Transfiguration
Branson, Shepherd of the Hills	Neosho, St. John's
Camdenton, St. George's	Nevada, All Saints'
Carthage, Grace	Noel, St. Nicholas'
Cassville, St. Thomas a Becket	Springfield, Ascension
Joplin, St. Philip's	Springfield, Christ
Kimberling City, St. Mark's	Springfield, St. James'
Lebanon, Trinity	Springfield, St. John's
Monett, St. Stephen's	West Plains, All Saints'

- (2) Any parish or congregation hereafter organized shall be assigned to a Deanery by the Bishop with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council.
- (3) Parishes or congregations may not be transferred from one Deanery to another except for good cause as determined by the Bishop with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council.

Section II. In each Deanery, a Deanery Council shall be formed as follows:

- (1) Each parish and congregation in the Deanery shall be represented on the Deanery Council by a Presbyter of that parish or congregation.
- (2) Each parish and congregation, at its annual meeting, shall elect a lay representative to serve as a member of the Deanery Council.
- (3) If the lay representative is not a member of the Vestry or Bishop's Committee of his parish or congregation, said representative shall meet with the Vestry or Bishop's Committee four (4) times each year.
- (4) Officers of the Deanery Council shall be the Dean, a Secretary appointed by the Dean, and any other officers deemed necessary by the Deanery Council.

Section III. The Dean shall be elected as follows:

- (1) Since as of January 1, 1977, the present convocations will cease to exist and; the office of Canon of Convocation will be abolished, the Bishop shall from among the Presbyters residing within the boundaries of each Deanery, appoint a Presbyter to convene an organizational meeting to be held prior to June 1, 1977, for each Deanery. The Dean shall be elected by simple majority vote of the representatives present at the meeting.

- (2) A Presbyter elected as Dean shall serve for a two-year term, and shall be eligible to serve only two such terms in succession.
- (3) The election of the Deans shall take place at a Deanery Council prior to the Fall meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri and they shall take office for their new terms immediately after the adjournment of the Diocesan Convention following their election.
- (4) If a vacancy occurs during the term of a Dean, the Bishop shall convene a meeting of Deanery Council to select a successor to serve for the remainder of the term.

Section IV. Concerning Deanery Council meetings, the Dean shall each year:

- (1) With due deference to need and to the advice of the Deanery Council, exercise his judgement in convening Deanery Council meetings during the year.
- (2) Prior to the Diocesan Convention each year, call to a special meeting every Presbyter and Deacon canonically resident or licensed to any office within his Deanery, delegates and alternates of the parishes and congregations to Diocesan Convention, and every lay representative to Deanery Council, for the purpose of considering matters to be brought before Diocesan Convention and to otherwise make preparations for Diocesan Convention.
- (3) Notify all parishes and congregations and other interested parties, in writing, of the time and place of meetings of the Deanery Council at least fifteen (15) days prior to such meetings.
- (4) Choose a location for each Deanery meeting, bearing in mind the need for a reasonable travel access from all parts of the Deanery.

Section V. With the approval of the Bishop and Diocesan Council, each Deanery may be empowered to enter into programs and projects of mutual interest and of benefit to the parishes and congregations of the Deanery and Diocese of West Missouri.

Section VI. Deans shall represent their Deaneries as ex officio members of the Department of Missions.

References:

1. Resolution #6 of the 87th Annual Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri; 1976 Journal.
2. Resolution #9 of the 91st Annual Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri; 1980 Journal.